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23 May 1966

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Continuation of HEW Responsibilities for Sections of
the NIS

1. Assistant Secretary for Administration Donald F. Simpson, Deputy Assistant Secretary Shelton B. Granger, and Edward Grant of Personnel -- all of HEW -- met with Messrs. Brammell and [REDACTED] in Mr. Simpson's office on 19 May 1966 at 1100. The purpose of the meeting, as stated by Mr. Simpson, was to arrange for the transfer of the International Surveys Staff from HEW to some other Government Agency in order that the Staff could continue the work uninterrupted on Sections of the NIS for which they are responsible. Mr. Simpson made it perfectly clear that Secretary Gardner wanted the relationship with CIA terminated within a 3-week period. He pointed out that Secretary Gardner, in the upcoming hearings on the International Education Bill and the International Health Bill, did not want the passage of these bills by Congress jeopardized because of an HEW-CIA relationship.

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2. Mr. Brammell pointed out that there were a number of practical realities involved in this situation. The first of these is that HEW has an agreement with CIA to produce 20 Sections of the NIS by the end of this fiscal year; 6 Sections remain to be completed and submitted under this agreement. He further pointed out that HEW's withdrawal from the Program would place this Agency and the Program in a hole. The unit in HEW has been able to furnish some of the best materials because of its research capabilities and its location in HEW. The point was made that the Sections on Characteristics of the People, Welfare, Religion, and Education are directly related to programs of some concern to this Government in the fields of subversion and insurgency. To discontinue basic research in these fields would have an adverse effect on the necessary planning of activities in many countries of the world. It was agreed by the group that HEW was the most logical place where this kind of research should be carried on, but that Secretary Gardner's overriding reason for discontinuing the relationship with CIA must be complied with.

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3. The group discussed the practical matters of the transfer to the Department of State and AID. It was pointed out that State's past relationship with the Program made it highly unlikely that they would be willing to renew a research effort in this field. It was decided that Mr. Simpson -- who knows William J. Crockett, the Deputy Under Secretary for Administration in the Department of State -- would set up an appointment for himself and Mr. Brammell to talk with Mr. Crockett about State undertaking this work.

4. To summarize, Mr. Simpson made it clear that he had the responsibility for discontinuing the HEW-CIA agreement. He would accept a "paper transfer" of the activity to State or to anyone else who would take it. He would allow the unit, if a "paper transfer" were made, to remain physically in the HEW Building for up to 6 months. He said that he was vitally interested in maintaining the integrity of the group, so that they could continue with the research which had been so well done by them.

5. Mr. Brammell made the point that CIA was not at all interested in having the group transferred into the Agency. Mr. Simpson countered that the supervisor of the group felt that none of the people would be interested in joining the Agency because it would mean sacrificing Civil Service Status; also, a number of the group are past the CIA retirement age of 65. There is also a reluctance of some of the group to return to State because of the emphasis on foreign service status.

6. Mr. Simpson will contact Mr. Brammell relative to an appointment with Mr. Crockett for further discussion.

[REDACTED]
JAMES A. BRAMMELL
Director of Basic Intelligence

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cc: Ex.Dir.-Comptroller
DDI

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